

## REPORT.

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The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the finances of the State, respectfully report:—

That their task would scarcely have been a light one, if their only duties had been to examine the various sources of revenue, to ascertain the receipts and expenditures of the State, to devise remedies for those defects in the law which have hindered the prompt and efficient collection of the public dues, and to insist upon the rigid enforcement of all those provisions which previous Legislatures have made in order to replenish and protect the Treasury. All this has been at least attempted, by measures which it would now be tedious to state in detail; and your committee do not doubt, that under a proper administration of the Treasury Department, the present sources of revenue will furnish ample means to meet all the ordinary expenses of the State, and the interest on our present public debt. It is true, that the expenditures for the last few years have considerably exceeded the income received, and that there would now be a deficiency in the Treasury, but for the margin of a balance to its credit, remaining over from the receipts of former years. But, without pretending to criticise the propriety of the various large appropriations which have been made by the last two Legislatures, it is enough to say, that there is no occasion now to follow the example set by them, and that the necessities of the time will, for some years to come, exact from us a far more rigid economy.

We have, also, a right to expect—and we are confident that the expectation will not be disappointed—that all State officers concerned in the collection of any part of the revenue will be held to a more strict accountability than has lately been the case; and your committee believe they may give the assurance, that not only will there be a considerable increase in the current receipts of the present year and in that next succeeding, when compared with the same receipts for some previous years, but that heavy arrearages will soon be brought into the Trea-